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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/862,707	05/23/2001	Steven Chen	10010402-1	9702

7590 09/23/2004

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
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Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

NELSON, FREDA ANN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3629

DATE MAILED: 09/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/862,707

Applicant(s)

CHEN ET AL.

Examiner

Freda Nelson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 May 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is in response to a letter for a patent filed on May 23, 2001 in which claims 1-20 were presented for examination. Claims 1–20 are pending.

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "20" has been used to represent an LCD touch screen and a touch screen; reference character "24" has been used to represent both an electronic media device and a payment terminal; and reference character "26" has been used to represent both a payment terminal and an electronic media device. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

2. Reference character "10" has been used to designate the vending machine, vending machine housing unit, printer vending, printer vending station, printer vender machine, and the printing service vending machine; reference character "20" has been used to represent an LCD touch screen, touch screen and screen; reference character "24" has been used to represent an electronic media device, magnetic media, payment terminal, payment authorization terminal and the device; reference character "26" has been used to represent a payment terminal, electronic media device, and a payment authorization terminal; reference character "38" has been used to represent both a memory device and storage device; reference character "42" has been used to represent both a user's file and a local hard drive or server; and reference character "50" has been used to represent both a flow chart and method.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-7 and 10-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wang (Patent Number 6,535,791).
4. In claim 1, Wang discloses an electronic information vending machine and method that allows users to purchase various forms of information, such as, newspapers, magazines, books, etc., quickly and conveniently at a vending machine or kiosk-type device (col.1, lines 61-65). Wang discloses that the vending machine utilizes a method and apparatus for providing information that generally includes retrieving a block of electronic information from a remote information source, such as, websites. Wang discloses that the system performs a step of receiving and verifying a payment based upon the selection signal input by the user. Wang further discloses that the block of electronic information selected by the user for purchase is then printed on a medium and dispensed to the user (col. 2, lines 11-27).

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5. In claims 2-3 and 20, Wang discloses that the data linking structure of a particular vending machine accesses a variety of remote sources, such as websites on the Internet or a variety of independently operated sources having a similar or different types of information, in order to obtain the information to be printed by the vending machine (col.3, lines 53-60).

6. In claims 4-5 and 13, Wang discloses that the user interface is provided that will allow a user to select an item for purchase using audio, visual, or tactile representation of an item for selection using various interface devices such as, for example, a liquid crystal display (LCD), a cathode ray tube (CRT) display, a plasma display, a light emitting diode display, speakers, a Braille device, a keyboard, a mouse, a voice recognition device, a monitor with input capabilities (such as a touch screen monitor) and other devices that allows a user to display the desired information and to input a selection (col. 4, lines 29-39 and Fig. 1).

7. In claim 6, 18 and 19 Wang discloses that the printer 58 includes the printer hardware, for example, which includes various paper trays, paper sizes, duplex unit, stapling unit, etc (col. 7, lines 35-37 and FIG. 4). Wang further discloses that the vending machine 44 dispenses the final product via an opening 62 in the housing thereof (col.6, lines 64-66 and FIGS. 4 and 5).

8. In claims 7, 12 and 16, Wang discloses that the invention utilizes a method and apparatus for providing information that generally includes retrieving a block of electronic information from a remote information source. The block of electronic information retrieved from the remote source is stored on a data storage unit (col. 2, lines 11-17). Wang discloses that the block of information

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retrieved in step 10 is stored on a data storage unit, for example a high capacity hard disk or a writeable or rewriteable optical disk, a magneto –optical disk, a floppy disk, or a semiconductor based memory or other suitable disk or non-disk memory (col. 3, lines 65-67 to col. 4, lines 1 –4). Wang further discloses that once payment is received, the portion of the block of electronic information selected by the user for purchase is then printed on a medium and dispensed to the user (col. 2, lines 22-27).

9. In claims 10 and 11, Wang discloses an electronic information vending machine that retrieves a block of electronic information from a remote information source, such as, websites and stores it on a data storage unit (col. 3, lines 65-66). Wang discloses that the system performs a step of receiving and verifying a payment based upon the selection signal input by the user. Wang further discloses that the block of electronic information selected by the user for purchase is then printed on a medium and dispensed to the user (col. 2, lines 11-27).

10. In claims 14-15, 17 and 20, Wang discloses that a remote source can be configured in which the predetermined blocks of electronic information is used to provide information one or an entire network of electronic vending machines (col. 3, lines 44-53). Wang discloses that the block of information retrieved in step 10 is stored on a data storage unit, for example a high capacity hard disk or a writeable or rewriteable optical disk, a magneto –optical disk, a floppy disk, or a semiconductor based memory or other suitable disk or non-disk memory (col. 3, lines 65-67 to col. 4, lines 1 –4). Wang discloses that the process of dispensing

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the materials purchased by retrieving a portion of the block of electronic information from the data storage unit based upon the selection signal begins in step 18. Wang further discloses that the system retrieves the file of information corresponding to the selection or selections made by the user at the user interface generally following payment and payment verification (col. 5, lines 28-34 and FIG. 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of Kolls (Patent Number 6,604,087).

12. In claims 8-9, Wang discloses that the printer 58 includes the printer hardware, for example, which includes various paper trays, paper sizes, duplex unit, stapling unit, etc (col. 7, lines 35-37 and FIG. 4). Wang does not disclose an input bin that allows the user to input predetermined types of paper to the printer. Kolls discloses that in an exemplary embodiment, the solenoid control means 528 is responsive to a system 500 detecting an "out-of-supply" condition of a vending machine and opening a supply door/drawer to allow a customer to

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restock the vending machines. Supplies can include paper, ink and toner for a copier, printer, fax, or PC (col. 11, lines 41-46 and FIG. 4B). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the vending machine of Wang to include the feature of Kolls which allows the user to restock the vending include the "out-of supply" feature of vending machine of Kolls to enable the user restock the vending machine with paper and or supplies. It would have been obvious to do this to allow the user to continue their transaction without having to wait for the owner or employee to perform the task. Although Kolls discloses that a user may restock the vending machine, Kolls is silent about the input bin being a cut sheet feeder. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that it was old and well known in the printer art to get the advantage of not having to physically feed paper into a printer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to get the advantage of letting the cut sheet feeder hold a stack of paper and feed each sheet into a printer one at a time.

Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Freda Nelson whose telephone number is (703) 305-0261. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

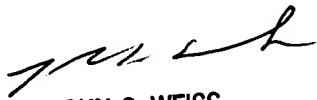
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (703) 308-2702. The fax

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phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Freda Nelson
Examiner
Art Unit 3629


JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600